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Title: Need to extend the benefit of Integrated Coffee Development Project to medium, large and corporate Coffee planters.

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR): Government has approved Rs. 950 crore for the Integrated Coffee Development Project (ICDP) under 12th FY Plan. Though, the Plan began in 2012, the Board started receiving funds only in 2014. If the remaining funds are not released before 2017, it will get lapsed and coffee growers will be deprived of subsidies. Finance Ministry has stopped releasing subsidy amount for the past nine months and there is a news that the Government is mulling cutting fund allocation to the board by 30%, which will further affect the growers. Besides, coffee growers are given compensation for crop losses due to erratic rainfall under the Rainfall Insurance Scheme for Coffee (RISC). The Board had submitted a proposal last year seeking release of Rs. 26 crore towards subsidy for drying yards, godowns, irrigation facilities and others activities. Of which, the Government released Rs. 10 crore. Around Rs. 35 crores worth applications will come up for claims this year, which means the board requires 20% mire funds than previous year to clear all claims including last year dues. I also urge the Government to contemplate adding green coffee beans to the exempted list in the proposed GST. Coffee Board should provide focused support for water augmentation and extension activities of coffee growers. I also earnestly urge the Government to extend the benefit of Integrated Coffee Development Project to medium, large and corporate planters so as to achieve desired objectives and amend the implementation modalities.